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ELBERT T. TURNER

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November 1D, 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

As you know, on October 5, 1964 I was demoted from Grade 13 and transferred to the field for delinquencies noted in the Oswald case. On October 8, 1964 after I had talked to Mr. McNamee, my transfer was changed from Milwaukee to Washington Field Office but the demotion was continued. As I previously advised you I sincerely appreciate this change and it alleviates some of the personal problems caused by the demotion.

Since that time I have tried to reconcile the severity of this action with the delinquencies charged to me and I can only conclude that because you did not have the full facts concerning my part in this case, there has been a miscarriage of justice. Not only is the 10% salary cut severe, but the blot on my career and the reputation earned in almost 24 years of service as an agent is particularly hard to accept. I feel compelled therefore, to bring to your personal attention my side of the story. I did not have an adequate opportunity to do so before my demotion. I know you are busy but I appeal to you to review this matter. I have no other recourse. Outlined below is a summary of the facts and attached is additional supporting material.

Although this case had been actively under investigation for some time, my responsibility began as the result of Oswald's contact with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico which was reported to us by CIA teletype dated October 10, 1963. Such contact cases were assigned to my desk. I have been charged with: (1) Failure to take action on the October 10, CIA teletype; (2) Delay in reviewing the file; (3) Failure to instruct the field to intensify investigation and (4) Failure to include his name in a list of dangerous individuals.

I sincerely believe that none of these was either causative or substantive. They did not involve violation of any Bureau rules or policy, there was no deliberate delay and they did not go to the merits of the case or affect the outcome.

The same information contained in the CIA teletype was submitted by the Legal Attache on October 18, 1963 and action was taken by another supervisor on this information on October 22, 1963. I was fully occupied with "specials" during this period and I don't know if I even saw the CIA teletype before the action was taken by the other supervisor. In any event, the field was already actively trying to locate Oswald and the delay did not affect the investigation in any way. Therefore, it was not a substantive error.

Likewise, my failure to fully review the file was not in violation of any policy or rule. I was already somewhat familiar with the case and the field had it under active investigation. Furthermore, such delay was not deliberate but was due to the volume of other work. On the day of the assassination the file was in my office for review.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Nease
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Evans
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

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Inadequate Opportunity to Defend Myself

1. On the date of the assassination, although other supervisors also had an interest in Oswald, I was instructed to prepare immediately a summary for the Director. This was done and thereafter I was assigned to head up or direct the group of men to review the material found in the search of Oswald and his residences and the results of investigation of Oswald and prepare a detailed report to go to the Department and the White House. Even in the first 3 or 4 days literally hundreds of communications were received which required long hours of very intensive work. I continued in this capacity until January 1964 when I returned to my desk.

2. On November 26, 1963 Mr. Gale called for interview and asked me a number of questions about my handling of this case. I was under considerable tension at the time due to the long hours of work and the tremendous job of getting out the report which was due in a few days. I answered the questions as best I could from memory and without reference to the file. He asked me to submit written answers to 4 questions which I did by memorandum dated November 26, 1963. The file was not available for review but I utilized my ticklers and prepared the answers as rapidly as possible so that I could get back to the main job of getting out the report to the Department and the White House.

3. On December 13, 1963 I was advised that I was being placed on probation for 4 delinquencies noted in my handling of this case.

4. On December 19, 1963 I was commended for my efforts in the preparation of the brief and report which went to the President's Commission.

5. On March 19, 1964 I was advised that I was being removed from probationary status.

6. On September 29, 1964 I was requested by Mr. Sullivan to prepare for Mr. Gale a memorandum explaining why I had not placed a stop with the State Department against the issuance of a passport to Oswald. I submitted a memorandum dated September 29, 1964.

7. On October 5, 1964 I was advised that a further analysis had been made of the manner in which I carried out my supervisory responsibilities in this case and because of my complete failure to fulfill my responsibilities I was being placed on a probationary status, removed from supervisory assignment, assigned to general investigative duties, and demoted from Grade GS-14 at \$16,620 per year to Grade GS-13 at \$15,015 per year effective on that date (October 5, 1963). This letter cited the same delinquencies which had been cited in the December 13, 1963 letter for which I had been placed on probation and later removed in March 1964.

I was not interviewed in connection with the "further analysis" of the case nor given any opportunity to further review the case or to expand on the brief explanations given on November 26, 1963. I therefore sincerely feel that I was not given an adequate opportunity to defend myself or present my side of the story before my demotion.

(1)

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Specials Handled-October 10 to November 22, 1963

1. British Case - A representative of British Intelligence was interviewed on October 7, 1963 by Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Moore. I assisted in the analysis of the results of this interview, the review of pertinent Bureau files, comparison of Bureau information with this information and collaborated with Mr. Moore in preparing a 63 page final memorandum dated October 15, 1963. This was a special assignment not directly related to my desk.

2. Dunlap Case - This case was assigned as a "special" to me in August, 1963. It did not relate to my desk. The investigation had been substantially completed by October 10, 1963 when publicity regarding Dunlap hit the newspapers. (Note that this was the same date of the CIA teletype in the Oswald case.) During the next 8 days I processed 21 incoming pieces of mail consisting of 49 pages and prepared 5 outgoing of 18 pages on this case which included a 11 page summary for the Director and a 2 page summary for Mr. Tolson.

Between October 18 and November 22 1963 I processed 37 incoming communications of 151 pages and prepared 7 outgoing of 9 pages on this one case.

3. Special School - This school began on October 14 and ran to October 25, 1963. I prepared for and delivered 13 hours of lectures, 11 of which were handled during the period October 10 to 18, 1963.

Regular Desk Assignment

In addition to the "Specials", my regular desk assignment included 104 cases, seven of which were active and important double agent cases reviewing signature mail prepared by the supervisors in my unit which required 3 to 4 hours per day; consultations with supervisors in the unit about their cases and the other normal desk duties. The 104 cases included about 30 cases involving Mexico and Canada which had been transferred to the desk in early October 1963 which had to be reviewed by me to become familiar with them.

Overtime

July 1963 -	2	hours	27	minutes	daily average
August 1963 -	2	"	35	"	"
September 1963 -	2	"	22	"	"
October 1963 -	2	"	34	"	"
November 1963 -	4	"	52	"	"
December 1963 -	4	"	44	"	"

Chronology-Oswald Case

1. Oswald defected to Russia in 1959, later recanted and returned to the U.S. in 1962 when he was interviewed and the case closed.

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